

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the heroic acts Major Ewald has performed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

CONGRATULATIONS BEN WENDEL

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ben Wendel of Stanley Middle School. Ben is the Grand Champion of the grades 7/8 Greater San Diego 24 Challenge® Math Program. I want to applaud him for his success.

The 24 Challenge® Math Program is an activity which helps young students learn how to add, subtract, multiply and divide. It has been used in more than one-hundred-thousand classrooms around the world to teach basic mathematics. Becoming the grand champion of such a competition is quite an accomplishment.

During the 2000–2001 school year, more than 640 elementary and middle school classrooms throughout San Diego County received 24® game materials to be used with second-through eighth-grade students. A U.S. Department of Education grant provided for 24 Game Mathematics Club kits to be sent to participating classrooms in San Diego County. The fruits of this small but worthy contribution can be seen in Ben's triumph.

I enjoyed meeting this young man and other competitors at this local program within my district. It is truly a pleasure to meet these bright students and their families.

HONORING U.S. MARINE SPC. PAUL T. NAKAMURA

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and patriotism of 21-year-old U.S. Marine Spc. Paul T. Nakamura of Santa Fe Springs, California. A brave soldier, he was killed in the line of duty in Iraq on Thursday, June 19 when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the military ambulance in which he was tending to a wounded American soldier. Nakamura joined the Army Reserves because he loved our country and was so proud to be an American. He has provided tremendous service and has made the ultimate sacrifice for his beloved country.

A graduate of Santa Fe High School, Nakamura was a passionate swimmer. He worked as a lifeguard and swimming instructor at the Santa Fe Springs Aquatic Center since he was 17 and belonged to the high school water polo team. Nakamura was also a boy scout and Junior Olympian who earned the respect and friendship of many in his community.

Nakamura's closest friends included the members of his Boy Scout troop and his younger sister, Pearl, with whom he spent countless hours swimming, bowling and shooting pool. Among his close friends and family

members, Nakamura was known as a daredevil, particularly when he was a child. If something was dangerous or frowned upon by adults, Paul Nakamura would want to try it. Once when camping with his Boy Scout troop, he and several of his friends rode their bikes down a steep hill. The other boys pressed on their brakes to slow down, but Paul sped down the hill full speed ahead.

Assigned to the 437th Medical Company based in Colorado Springs, Marine Spc. Nakamura was deployed to the Middle East in February. The last time he spoke to his family was on Father's Day. He continually reassured his family of his safety, and they knew he did not want them to worry. But knowing that their son always put others before himself, Nakamura's parents, Paul and Yoko, did worry about his safety. They remain extremely proud of him, knowing that he died helping others.

His family misses him greatly. Nakamura's father, a veteran of the Korean war, gave his departing son his old Army dog tags and told him to bring them home safely. Sadly, Paul Nakamura will never be able to do this. My prayers and deepest condolences are with the Nakamura family and his loved ones left behind.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON HOW TO WIN THE PEACE IN IRAQ

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Resolution that is similar to an amendment that passed unanimously in the Senate last week. My Resolution encourages the President to reach out to our allies in NATO, the United Nations, and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for help in post-war Iraq. I believe that we can achieve our goals in Iraq, but not without the full cooperation of the international community.

My Resolution urges the President to do two things.

First, consider requesting assistance from NATO to raise a force for post-war Iraq similar to Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Kosovo. Even though some NATO members, Great Britain, Spain, Italy and Poland, are already contributing troops to our effort in Iraq, American troops make up 90 percent of coalition forces.

And second, consider calling on the United Nations member states to provide both military forces and civilian police to aid in promoting stability and security in post-war Iraq. Conditions in Iraq continue to pose a serious threat to U.S. and coalition forces, who are being attacked between 10 and 25 times a day. Increasing the number of troops and police from other countries will reduce the risks to U.S. and coalition forces currently in Iraq. International armed forces and police must assume some of the responsibilities for maintaining law and order in Iraq while a domestic police force and reformed military is trained and established. Pentagon officials estimate that it will take a year to train one division of 12,000 Iraqi troops.

My Resolution also calls on the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

along with other international and nongovernmental organizations to provide assistance to the coalition partnership in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to move past any negative feelings concerning countries that opposed our attempts to secure a U.N. endorsement for the war. We must repair our strained relations with our allies. We will only be successful in post-war Iraq, and in the global war on terrorism, if we restore our relationships with these nations.

Our ultimate goal for the Iraqi people is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious Arab state that is capable of self-rule. This goal can only be achieved with the help and support of the vast global community.

Mr. Speaker, United States and coalition forces managed to liberate Iraq in a mere 3 weeks, and I would certainly be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to commend those brave men and women for their efforts to date. However, the goals we have set, from restoring critical infrastructure, to establishing an interim government, to maintaining law and order in Iraq, simply cannot be achieved alone. We've won the war, now we have to win the peace.

TRIBUTE TO THE 28th ANNUAL NAACP ARMED SERVICES AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS AWARDS DINNER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the NAACP for its perseverance in ensuring equity and justice for all men and women of color who have served and are currently serving in defense of this nation. The rich history of African-American participation in the United States military is as long as the existence of the principles of this great country.

It is a history that extends back to the Revolutionary War when Crispus Attucks, an enslaved person of African descent, was the first to die while confronting British soldiers in the Boston Massacre. It is a history where the road was not always clear but was most certainly filled with the obstacles of bigotry and stereotypes. Collective organization yielded the NAACP—a beacon of hope for equal protection under the law, and a tireless advocate for the advancement of African-Americans and all people of color.

Since its inception in 1909, the NAACP has maintained an impeccable track record with regards to its ability to confront issues involving civil rights. As early as 1917, the NAACP exerted pressure on the War Department to establish a training camp that resulted in the commissioning of more than 1,300 black officers during World War I. The NAACP has led a consistent and unwavering effort to provide equal opportunity to African Americans in the military.

The 28th Anniversary of the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Awards Dinner is a culminating event in that it recognizes those consistent and unwavering efforts by awarding individuals within the Department of Defense who have made significant contributions to promoting equal opportunity and civil rights. This combination, challenging discriminatory

treatment and rewarding contributions of equal opportunity, provides a balance that creates trust and integrity between the leaders of the NAACP and the Department of Defense. The working partnership of the NAACP and the Department of Defense ensures that the flame of freedom for all people regardless of color continues to burn.

It is a privilege to recognize the efforts of an organization whose mission is to ensure that people of color are afforded equal access to opportunity. I would ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in the celebration of this 28th Anniversary of the NAACP Annual Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Military Awards Dinner.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TODD
KIMZEY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Todd Kimzey of Loma Elementary School.

Todd is the Grand Champion of the grades 4/5 Greater San Diego 24 Challenge® Math Program. I want to applaud him for his success.

The 24 Challenge® Math Program is an activity which helps young students learn how to add, subtract, multiply and divide. It has been used in more than one-hundred-thousand classrooms around the world to teach basic mathematics. Becoming the grand champion of such a competition is quite an accomplishment.

During the 2000–2001 school year, more than 640 elementary and middle school classrooms throughout San Diego County received 24® game materials to be used with second-through eighth-grade students. A U.S. Department of Education grant provided for 24 Game Mathematics Club kits to be sent to participating classrooms in San Diego County. The fruits of this small but worthy contribution can be seen in Todd's triumph.

I enjoyed meeting this young man and other competitors at this local program within my district. It is truly a pleasure to meet these bright students and their families.

HONORING JULIE M. AUSTIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Foothill Transit

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to Ms. Julie M. Austin. On July 30, 2003, the Foothill Transit Executive Board will wish a fond farewell to Ms. Austin, who is leaving her position as Executive Director of Foothill Transit and Vice President of Transit Management for ATC/Forsythe & Associates, Inc., a post she has held since 1997.

As Executive Director, Ms. Austin has over all responsibility for implementing Executive Board policies, developing policy rec-

ommendations and providing leadership and vision for the nationally recognized Foothill Transit. Foothill Transit was created in 1988, in one of the largest public-private transit partnerships in the United States, and has delivered cost-effective, safe and efficient bus service to commuters and residents in the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys, located in the eastern portion of Los Angeles County in southern California. Foothill Transit now operates on 32 routes with nearly 300 buses and almost 17 million annual boardings, a marked increase from the 9.5 million boardings at the time of the creation of the transit agency.

The American Public Transportation Association recognized Foothill Transit in 2001 with a "Bus Safety Gold Award," dubbing Foothill the safest transit agency of its size. Foothill was also named "Outstanding Transit System" of its size by APTA in 1993 and 1995. The National Safety Council, Greater Los Angeles Chapter, recognized Foothill Transit in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2001 with first-place awards for its safety programs.

Ms. Austin played a leadership role in the accomplishments of Foothill Transit, both as Executive Director and as Deputy Executive Director from 1995 to 1997. She also contributed to the success of public transit in Los Angeles County as Director of Management Support from 1993 to 1995 at the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and as Senior Transit Analyst/Manager of Transportation Policy from 1989 to 1993 at the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, where she oversaw a three-year evaluation of the Foothill Transit Zone. She also worked for the Southern California Association of Governments for three years and spent several years as a transportation consultant.

A resident of the City of Monrovia, California, Ms. Austin has a bachelor's degree in journalism from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She is active in the American Public Transit Association (Legislative Committee), California Transit Association (Executive Committee), San Gabriel Valley Commerce and Cities Consortium Board, Women's Transportation Seminar, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Transit Committee, and West Covina Chamber of Commerce.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring this truly remarkable leader in the field of public transit in our region, in thanking for her efforts and in wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

EXTEND THE HMONG VETERANS' NATURALIZATION ACT

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would allow more Hmong refugees who served in conjunction with American soldiers during the Vietnam War to apply for citizenship with special consideration of their service to our country.

Between 1961 and 1975 Hmong soldiers gathered intelligence, conducted reconnaissance, and undertook other dangerous missions in support of American troops. Tens of thousands of Hmong died during the war and

over 100,000 were forced to flee to refugee camps.

In 2000, under the leadership of the late Rep. Bruce Vento, Congress approved the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act, which provided an exemption from the English language requirement and special consideration on the civics test for those Hmong veterans and their spouses. Later that year, similar legislation was enacted granting the same benefits to widows of Hmong veterans.

Approximately 5,000 Hmong currently living in America took advantage of the Hmong Veteran's Naturalization Act and proudly became citizens. However, many veterans and their spouses missed the May 26, 2003 deadline and are now unable to apply for citizenship with the eased requirements. My legislation would extend that deadline by an additional 18 months in order to give every deserving veteran or surviving widow a chance to apply for citizenship.

Remembering the sacrifices that these brave men and women made while rescuing downed American pilots, serving in guerilla units, and in other operations in support of U.S. troops, we owe it to them to provide every opportunity to become American citizens.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HGTV

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud that Home and Garden Television (HGTV), one of the Nation's fastest growing networks, is headquartered in my hometown, Knoxville, Tennessee.

HGTV is a really outstanding cable channel with a wide variety of programs.

Unlike some of the trash that is shown on other networks, the programs on HGTV are positive and helpful and encourage people to improve their lives and their communities.

Joshua Green, Editor of the Washington Monthly, has written a humorous but very complimentary article about HGTV in the July/August issue of his magazine.

I would like to call this article to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Washington Monthly]

HOME SICK; THE ADDICTIVE ALLURE OF HOME AND GARDEN TELEVISION

(By Joshua Green)

Over the past two years, as the rest of the economy has gradually tanked, one sector has stubbornly resisted: the housing market. Despite layoffs, the weak dollar, the moribund stock market, and all other manner of economic calamity, house prices are climbing faster than George W. Bush's negative rating in Iraq. In fact, economists credit the housing market's continuing strength with keeping the country out of recession. Much like the "wealth effect" created by the late '90s stock boom, rising real-estate prices have made Americans feel rich enough to keep on spending amply, regardless of the overall economic climate. So the booming housing market is surely welcome news to most Americans—except those, like me, who